

dreams. He felt so free around her. Together they explored the pristine white remains of some long ago island civilization. And they played hide and seek among stone pillars that had withstood the test of time. Yet, in spite of their splendid camaraderie, she seemed guarded, especially whenever he complimented her. He attributed it to the fact that she had a boyfriend and probably wasn't interested in him. That night, he was secretly relieved to learn that Robert wasn't feeling well and had retired early to his cabin. Finally, when all the passengers had called it a night, he was alone with Monica. He pulled her off to a secluded corner of the deck and put on his most seductive tape of songs. Yes, he had this romantic repertoire down pat. As he pulled her close and felt her sensuous black silk gown, he readied to kiss her passionately. But suddenly he stopped. He didn't want to ruin the blissful moment or complicate things between her and Robert. He couldn't believe what he had just done. He never would have missed an opportunity like this before. Boyfriend or no boyfriend in the picture.



Monica pulled away to peer up at the still black sky punctuated only by stars twinkling like diamonds. Silent for what seemed like an eternity, she finally whispered, "I'm tired...I think I'm going to call it a day." He walked her to her cabin door and gallantly lifted her hand and kissed it gently. With a puzzled look on her face, she turned and shut the door.



Their next few days together were pure bliss. Yet he never made any romantic overtures as he would have done with other attractive women in the past. Finally, on their last night together, Monica leaned in to him and planted a delicious kiss on his lips. He pulled her close, unleashing all the passion he had kept bottled up all week. "So, you did find me attractive after all," she teasingly asked. He was charmed at how naive she was about her beauty and he explained why he didn't want to turn this into some meaningless fling. Or mess up things with Robert. Monica burst out laughing. "Robert? He's an old friend...and there's nothing going on between us!"